

Austin 4.1-1
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Response to Office Action dated August 18, 2005
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in an object positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 object;

6 (b) legs, each leg having a first end and a
7 second end with first damping material between the ends and
8 connected at the first end to the bracket; and

9 (c) side arms each having a first end and a
10 second end ~~with second damping material between the ends~~
11 and connected at the first end to the bracket and having
12 second damping material positioned on each side arm such as
13 to reduce vibrations in the bracket.

1 2. (Currently amended) The device of Claim 1 wherein a
2 forward arm having a first end and a second end forming a
3 longitudinal axis of the forward arm is connected at the
4 first end to the bracket, the forward arm having third
5 damping material ~~between the ends~~ positioned along the
6 longitudinal axis of the forward arm to reduce vibrations
7 in the bracket.

1 3. (Original) The device of Claim 2 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and wherein
3 the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at an angle of
4 approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of the forward
5 arm.

1 4. (Original) The device of Claim 2 wherein the
2 longitudinal axis of the forward arm is parallel to a
3 longitudinal axis of the object when the object is
4 connected to the bracket.

1 5. (Original) The device of Claim 2 wherein the third
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first end of the
3 forward arm.

1 6. (Original) The device of Claim 2 wherein the forward arm
2 is connected to the bracket so that when the object is
3 connected to the bracket, the forward arm extends outward
4 from the bracket along the object.

1 7. (Original) The device of Claim 1 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and the ends
3 of each side arm form a longitudinal axis of each side arm
4 and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at
5 an angle of approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of
6 one of the side arms.

1 8. (Original) The device of Claim 1 or 2 wherein a plate is
2 pivotably connected to the bracket and wherein the legs are
3 connected to the bracket and the object is connected to the
4 plate so that the object can be pivoted while the legs
5 remain stationary.

1 9. (Original) The device of Claim 8 wherein the forward arm
2 is connected to the plate.

1 10. (Original) The device of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the
2 bracket includes a first leg and a second leg connected
3 together at an angle by a center portion, and wherein one
4 of the legs is connected to the first leg of the bracket
5 and the other of the legs is connected to the second leg of
6 the bracket.

1 11. (Original) The device of Claim 10 wherein one of the
2 side arms is connected to the first leg of the bracket and
3 the other of the side arms is connected to the second leg
4 of the bracket.

1 12. (Original) The device of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the first
2 damping material includes a plurality of separable damping
3 units.

1 13. (Original) The device of Claim 12 wherein at least two
2 of the separable damping units are constructed of damping
3 material having different damping characteristics for
4 damping different vibration frequencies.

1 14. (Original) The device of Claim 1 wherein the second
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first ends of the
3 side arms.

1 15. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in a firearm positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 firearm;

6 (b) legs, each leg having a first end and a
7 second end with first damping material between the ends and
8 connected at the first end to the bracket; and

9 (c) side arms each having a first end and a
10 second end ~~with second damping material between the ends~~
11 and connected at the first end to the bracket with second
12 damping material positioned on each side arm to reduce
13 vibrations in the bracket.

1 16. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and the ends
3 of each side arm form a longitudinal axis of each side arm
4 and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at
5 an angle of approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of
6 one of the side arms.

1 17. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the legs are
2 pivotably connected to the bracket.

1 18. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein a plate is
2 pivotably connected to the bracket and wherein the firearm
3 is connected to the plate so that the firearm can be
4 pivoted while the legs remain stationary.

1 19. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the second
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first ends of the
3 side arms.

1 20. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the bracket
2 includes a first leg and a second leg connected together at
3 an angle by a center portion, and wherein one of the legs
4 is connected to the first leg of the bracket and the other
5 of the legs is connected to the second leg of the bracket.

1 21. (Original) The device of Claim 20 wherein one of the
2 side arms is connected to the first leg of the bracket and
3 the other of the side arms is connected to the second leg
4 of the bracket.

1 22. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the first
2 damping material includes a plurality of separable damping
3 units.

1 23. (Original) The device of Claim 22 wherein at least two
2 of the separable damping units are constructed of damping
3 material having different damping characteristics for
4 damping different vibration frequencies.

1 24. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein the second
2 ends of the legs are provided with feet constructed of a
3 third damping material.

25. (Cancelled)

1 26. (Original) The device of Claim 15 wherein there are
2 three legs spaced apart approximately 60° about a vertical
3 axis of the bracket.

1 27. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in a firearm positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 firearm;

6 (b) legs, each leg having a first end and a
7 second end with the first end of each leg connected to the
8 bracket, each leg having first damping material between the

9 ends; and

10 (c) a forward arm having a first end and a second
11 end forming a longitudinal axis of the forward arm with the
12 first end of the forward arm connected to the bracket and
13 having second damping material ~~between the ends~~ positioned
14 on the forward arm to reduce vibrations in the bracket.

1 28. (Currently amended) The device of Claim ~~29~~ 27 wherein
2 the ends of each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg
3 and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at
4 an angle of approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of
5 the forward arm.

1 29. (Original) The device of Claim 28 wherein the legs are
2 pivotably connected to the bracket.

1 30. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the bracket
2 includes a plate pivotably connected to a bracket section
3 wherein the legs are connected to the bracket section of
4 the bracket and the firearm is connected to the plate of
5 the bracket so that the firearm can be pivoted while the
6 legs remain stationary.

1 31. (Original) The device of Claim 30 wherein the forward
2 arm is connected to the plate.

1 32. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the
2 longitudinal axis of the forward arm is parallel to a
3 longitudinal axis of a barrel of the firearm when the
4 firearm is mounted on the bracket.

1 33. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the second
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first end of the
3 forward arm.

1 34. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the bracket
2 includes a first leg and a second leg connected together at
3 an angle by a center portion, wherein the forward arm is
4 mounted on the center portion of the bracket and wherein
5 one of the legs is connected to the first leg of the
6 bracket and the other one of the legs is connected to the
7 second leg of the bracket.

1 35. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the forward
2 arm is connected to the bracket so that when the firearm is
3 connected to the bracket, the forward arm extends outward
4 from the bracket along a barrel of the firearm in a
5 direction opposite a stock of the firearm.

1 36. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the first
2 damping material includes a plurality of separable
3 sections.

1 37. (Original) The device of Claim 36 wherein each leg has
2 at least two separable sections and wherein at least two of
3 the sections are constructed of leg damping material having
4 different damping characteristics for damping different
5 vibration frequencies.

1 38. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein the second
2 ends of the legs are provided with feet constructed of a
3 third damping material.

1 39. (Original) The device of Claim 27 wherein there are
2 three legs spaced apart approximately 60° about a vertical
3 axis of the bracket.

1 40. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in a firearm positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 firearm;

6 (b) legs, each leg having a first end and a
7 second end and connected at the first end to the bracket,
8 and configured so that the second end of each leg contacts
9 the surface, each leg having first damping material ~~between~~
10 ~~the ends~~;

11 (c) side arms, each arm having a first end and a
12 second end and connected at the first end to the bracket,
13 each side arm having second damping material ~~between the~~
14 ~~ends~~ positioned to reduce vibrations in the bracket; and

15 (d) a forward arm having a first end and a second
16 end and connected at the first end to the bracket and
17 having third damping material ~~between the ends~~ positioned
18 to reduce vibrations in the bracket.

1 41. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein there are
2 three legs spaced apart approximately 60° about a vertical
3 axis of the bracket.

1 42. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and the ends
3 of each side arm form a longitudinal axis of each side arm
4 and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at
5 an angle of approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of
6 one of the side arms.

1 43. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and wherein
3 the longitudinal axis of one of the legs is at an angle of
4 approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis of the forward
5 arm.

1 44. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the ends of
2 each leg form a longitudinal axis of each leg and the ends
3 of each side arm form a longitudinal axis of each side arm
4 and the ends of the forward arm form a longitudinal axis of
5 the forward arm and wherein the longitudinal axis of one of
6 the legs is approximately at a 90° angle to the
7 longitudinal axis of one of the side arms and approximately
8 at an 80° angle to the longitudinal axis of the forward
9 arm.

1 45. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the legs are
2 pivotably connected to the bracket.

1 46. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the bracket
2 includes a plate pivotably connected to a bracket section,
3 and wherein the legs are connected to the bracket section
4 of the bracket and the firearm is connected to the plate so
5 that the firearm can be pivoted while the legs remain
6 stationary.

1 47. (Original) The device of Claim 46 wherein the forward
2 arm is connected to the plate.

1 48. (Original) The device of Claim 46 wherein the side arms
2 are connected to the bracket section.

1 49. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the
2 longitudinal axis of the forward arm is parallel to a
3 longitudinal axis of a barrel of the firearm when the
4 firearm is mounted on the bracket.

1 50. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the second
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first end of the
3 side arms.

1 51. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the third
2 damping material is spaced apart from the first end of the
3 forward arm.

1 52. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the bracket
2 includes a first leg and a second leg connected together at
3 an angle by a center portion, wherein the forward arm is
4 mounted on the center portion of the bracket and wherein
5 each of the legs and each of the side arms is connected to
6 the first and second legs of the bracket.

1 53. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the forward
2 arm is connected to the bracket so that when the firearm is
3 mounted on the bracket, the forward arm extends outward
4 from the bracket along a barrel of the firearm in a
5 direction opposite a stock of the firearm.

1 54. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein the first
2 damping material includes a plurality of separable
3 sections.

1 55. (Original) The device of Claim 54 wherein each leg has
2 at least two separable sections and wherein at least two of
3 the sections are constructed of damping material having
4 different damping characteristics for damping different
5 vibration frequencies.

1 56. (Original) The device of Claim 40 wherein there are a
2 plurality of forward arms and wherein the forward arms are
3 spaced apart and parallel.

1 57. (Currently amended) A stabilizing device for damping
2 vibrations in a firearm positioned on a surface, which
3 comprises:

4 (a) a bracket configured to connect to the
5 firearm;

6 (b) a leg having a first end and a second end
7 forming a longitudinal axis of the leg with the first end
8 of the leg connected to a center of the bracket;

9 ~~(c) the leg having first damping material between~~
10 ~~the ends~~ positioned on the leg to reduce vibration in the
11 bracket;

12 ~~(c)~~ (d) side arms, each side arm having a first
13 end and a second end with the first end of each side arm
14 connected to the bracket;

15 ~~(e) and each side arm having~~ second damping
16 material positioned on each side arm so as to reduce
17 vibration in the bracket;

18 ~~(d)~~ (f) a forward arm having a first end and a
19 second end and connected at the first end to the bracket;
20 and

21 (g) ~~having~~ third damping material ~~between the~~
22 ~~ends~~ positioned on the forward arm so as to reduce
23 vibration in the bracket.

1 58. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing vibration in a
2 firearm positioned on a surface, which comprises the steps
3 of:

4 (a) providing a stabilizing device including a
5 bracket, legs having a first damping material connected to
6 the bracket and side arms having second damping material
7 connected to the bracket;

8 (b) connecting the firearm to the bracket;

9 (c) positioning the legs of the bracket on the
10 surface;

11 (d) aligning the firearm with a target; and

12 (e) pulling a trigger of the firearm to hit the
13 target wherein the stabilizing device reduces the vibration
14 of the firearm to enable a more accurate shot.

1 59. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein in steps (d)
2 and (e), the side arms reduce vibrations in the firearm in
3 a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the
4 firearm formed by a barrel of the firearm.

1 60. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein a forward
2 arm extends outward from the bracket in a direction
3 parallel to a longitudinal axis of the firearm formed by a
4 barrel of the firearm and, wherein in step (e), the forward
5 arm reduces vibrations in the firearm parallel to the
6 longitudinal axis of the firearm.

1 61. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein a scope is
2 attached to the firearm, wherein before step (d), the
3 firearm is aligned with a target using the scope and
4 wherein the stabilizing device reduces vibration of the
5 firearm and the scope to enable easier and better alignment
6 of the firearm with the target using the scope.

1 62. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein the legs of
2 the stabilizing device are constructed of a plurality of
3 damping units removably connected together, wherein the
4 surface is vibrating and wherein in step (c), after
5 positioning the legs on the surface, the legs are removed
6 from the surface and the damping units of the legs are
7 removed or replaced with alternate damping units having
8 different damping characteristics and the legs are
9 positioned back on the surface to enable better reduction
10 of vibration.

1 63. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein in step (e),
2 the stabilizing device reduces vibration in the firearm
3 caused by operation of the firearm.

1 64. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58 wherein the surface
2 is vibrating and wherein in step (e), the stabilizing
3 device reduces a transfer of vibration from the surface to
4 the firearm.

1 65. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 64 wherein a scope is
2 mounted on the firearm, and wherein further in step (d),
3 the stabilizing device reduces the vibration of the firearm
4 and the scope so that the firearm can be aligned with the
5 target using the scope.

1 66. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing vibrations of a
2 firearm positioned on a surface, which comprises the steps
3 of:

4 (a) providing a stabilizing device including a
5 bracket, legs connected to the bracket having first damping
6 material, side arms connected to the bracket having second
7 damping material and a forward arm connected to the bracket
8 having third damping material;

9 (b) connecting the firearm on the bracket;

10 (c) positioning the legs of the stabilizing
11 device on the surface;

12 (d) aligning the firearm with a target; and

13 (e) pulling a trigger of the firearm to shoot the
14 target wherein the stabilizing device reduces vibration in
15 the firearm to allow for a more accurate shot.

1 67. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein in steps (d)
2 and (e), the side arms reduce vibrations in the firearm in
3 a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the
4 firearm formed by a barrel of the firearm.

1 68. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein the forward
2 arm extends outward from the bracket in a direction
3 parallel to a longitudinal axis of the firearm formed by a
4 barrel of the firearm and, wherein in step (e), the forward
5 arm reduces vibrations in the firearm parallel to the
6 longitudinal axis of the firearm.

1 69. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein a scope is
2 attached to the firearm, wherein before step (d), the
3 firearm is aligned with a target using the scope and
4 wherein the stabilizing device reduces vibration of the
5 firearm and the scope to enable easier and better alignment
6 of the firearm with the target using the scope.

1 70. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein the legs of
2 the stabilizing device are constructed of a plurality of
3 damping units removably connected together, wherein the
4 surface is vibrating and wherein in step (c), after
5 positioning the legs on the surface, the legs are removed
6 from the surface and the damping units of the legs are
7 removed or replaced with alternate damping units having
8 different damping characteristics and the legs are
9 positioned back on the surface to enable better reduction
10 of vibration.

1 71. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein in step (e),
2 the stabilizing device reduces vibration of the firearm
3 caused by operation of the firearm.

1 72. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 66 wherein the surface
2 is vibrating and wherein in step (e), the stabilizing
3 device reduces a transfer of vibration from the surface to
4 the firearm.

1 73. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 72 wherein a scope is
2 mounted on the firearm, and wherein further in step (d),
3 the stabilizing device reduces the vibration of the firearm
4 and the scope so that the firearm can be aligned with the
5 target using the scope.

1 74. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing vibration in an
2 object positioned on a surface, which comprises the steps
3 of:

4 (a) providing a stabilizing device including a
5 bracket, legs having a first damping material connected to
6 the bracket and side arms having second damping material
7 connected to the bracket;

8 (b) connecting the object to the bracket;

9 (c) positioning the legs of the bracket on the
10 surface;

11 (d) aligning the object with a target; and

12 (e) operating the object wherein the stabilizing
13 device reduces the vibration in the object to enable a more
14 accurate operation of the object.

1 75. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein in steps (d)
2 and (e), the side arms reduce vibrations in the object in
3 a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the
4 object.

1 76. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein a forward
2 arm extends outward from the bracket in a direction
3 parallel to a longitudinal axis of the object and, wherein
4 in step (e), the forward arm reduces vibrations in the
5 object parallel to the longitudinal axis of the object.

1 77. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein the legs of
2 the stabilizing device are constructed of a plurality of
3 damping units removably connected together, wherein the
4 surface is vibrating and wherein in step (c), after
5 positioning the legs on the surface, the legs are removed
6 from the surface and the damping units of the legs are
7 removed or replaced with alternate damping units having
8 different damping characteristics and the legs are
9 positioned back on the surface to enable better reduction
10 of vibration.

1 78. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein in step (e),
2 the stabilizing device reduces vibration in the object
3 caused by operation of the object.

1 79. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 74 wherein the surface
2 is vibrating and wherein in step (e), the stabilizing
3 device reduces a transfer of vibration from the surface to
4 the object.

1 80. (New) The device of Claim 1 wherein the first damping
2 material is positioned on the legs to reduce vibrations in
3 the bracket in a first direction and wherein the second
4 damping material reduces vibration in the bracket in a
5 second direction different from the first direction.